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### Abstract

An image processing apparatus and method for analyzing a digital image and automatically generating a visually attractive frame for the image. A data set for the image  
5 is analyzed, preferably in color space, to determine one or more image components representing dominant colors in the image. The components are characterized individually, and then these individual component characterizations are used to characterize the image overall. Based on the overall image characteristics, the framing scheme parameters are determined and used in turn to generate the attributes of a visually  
10 attractive frame for the image. A data set for the framed image is then generated, which may be sent to an imaging device for display or printing, or simply stored as a new data set for later use. The user has the ability to modify the rules that determine the framing scheme parameters so as to adjust the framed image if desired.